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DISAGREEMENTS EMERGE AT PERONIST 'SUMMIT'

PY231742 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] Mar del Plata (NA) -- The Peronist "summit" expected to take place here during the Easter holiday never got off the ground for lack of a quorum of notables, namely, Senate majority leader Vicente Saadi and unified CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini.

But the several meetings which took place did serve to show the apparent irreversibility of the rift in the Buenos Aires Province party branch after a meeting called by Justicialist Party Senior Vice-President Lorenzo Miguel to conciliate defeated gubernatorial candidate Hermino Iglesias and challenger Manuel Torres failed. Miguel withdrew from the issue and ruled that the dispute would have to be settled through "organic" channels.

Indeed, one of the nine "rebellious" members of the 16-seat provincial party council, Omar Marinucci, said Iglesias' demise as the Buenos Aires Justicialist leader could result from a council meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Stressing the need for the removal of Iglesias, Marinucci said "his personal peculiarities have made the provincial council, which is a collegiate body, appear a personal entity." Rooting out Iglesias, he continued, would "respond to demands by the rank and file," but warned that "this must not be used in favour of group or personal interests."

National Deputy Norberto Imbelloni, who is also vice-president of the Buenos Aires Justicialist convention, said 350 convention members have vowed to "accompany Hermino Iglesias to the end" and to "expel Torres from the party."

Meanwhile, Antonio Cafiero, who lost the gubernatorial candidacy to Iglesias in last year's provincial primaries, announced the creation next Saturday of a new, "orthodox" Peronist faction in the province of Buenos Aires. Economist Eduardo Setti also confirmed he will challenge Iglesias for the provincial leadership and called for provincial primaries in October.

Another highlight of the Peronist week in Mar del Plata was the series of verbal exchanges between Miguel and La Rioja Governor Carlos Menem, who has lately been firing large-calibre ammunition against the Justicialist leadership and makes no efforts to conceal his own bid to carry the Peronist torch in the next presidential elections.

Last Thursday, Miguel said he was willing to "talk to anyone, except for Menem, who feels more comfortable being near (President Raul) Alfonsin than being near us." The La Rioja governor struct back shortly before a ceremony during which he inaugurated his province's representation in Mar del Plata, with Radical Buenos Aires Governor Alejandro Armendariz as a guest, charging that the Justicialist National Council "is being handled as though it were a fiefdom." Miguel vowed to "show Menem that this leadership is the most representative after Peron's and Isabel's."

RESIGNATION OF LABOR MINISTER, AIDES EXPECTED

PY231710 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Apr p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Labour Minister Antonio Mucci will resign this week, most probably before a meeting set for tomorrow evening between government officials and unified General Confederation of Labour leaders, a high-level government source said yesterday.

Labour Secretary and Under-Secretary Gabriel Matzkin and Norberto Troglio will also hand in their resignations, the result of "personal differences" between themselves and Mucci, the source added.

Ministry observers said the resignations became inevitable following the Senate rejection of the government's union reorganization bill last February. The three officials had lobbied hard for the bill, which was defeated by Peronist and provincial party legislators.

Mucci's replacement will be a "congressman," the source said, thus contradicting earlier rumours that either Horacio Laralde, who recently resigned as director of the Ministry's Regional Delegates Bureau, or presidential social adviser Leonardo Dimase would be appointed labour minister. Congressional sources named Senator Luis Brasesco (Radical-Entre Rios) the most likely candidate to replace Mucci, since the House Labour Committee vice-chairman is a "distinguished labour specialist and has experience in advising various unions" in legal matters.

Mucci's resignation is expected before Tuesday's meeting since his presence, assuming he is to be replaced, at talks between CGT leaders and the government would seem futile. A new labour minister would likely be named before Tuesday evening so that he might join Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun for the talks.

The president's delegate for union normalization, Hugo Barrionuevo, is reportedly ready to present union leaders, with whom he will meet on Wednesday and Thursday, a plan calling for union elections within 90 days. A government source said the plan includes even speedier elections in certain unions like those of Power Workers and Bottled Water Workers.

President Raul Alfonsin, during last week's almost daily meetings with union leaders, asked labour bosses to "try to avoid strikes" since these "affect economic recovery," a Government House source reported yesterday.

Alfonsin this morning meets with leaders of the Confederation of State Workers (CGTE) to discuss the sector's wage demands as well as to consider a CGTE plan for a wage council to study state employees' salary needs.

Minister Silent on Report

PY231920 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1644 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (TELAM) -- Labor Minister Antonio Mucci said that the press conference he will hold tomorrow will be very important, but he neither confirmed nor denied that he had resigned from his post. This is what Minister Mucci said today after a meeting he had with President Alfonsin. In a brief statement to the press as he was leaving Government House, Mucci said that tomorrow he will accompany the CGT leaders during the meeting they will hold with Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun. Insistently questioned by journalists about whether he had submitted his resignation, Mucci replied: "I believe I have fulfilled my task, and I am and will be in solidarity with President Alfonsin."

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN ALLEGEDLY PHONED MRS PERON

PY232228 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr -- Today Pedro Arrighi, coordinator of the Justicialist Party's liaison commission, claimed that President Raul Alfonsin phoned Maria Estela Martinez de Peron in Spain yesterday to wish her Happy Easter.

However, this information was denied by government sources who, nevertheless, admitted the possibility that Alfonsin would phone Mrs Peron during the next few hours.

The president himself, during an audience granted to union leaders last week, disclosed his intention of getting in touch with the president of the Justicialist Party on Easter Sunday. One of the persons who attended the audience stated that on that occasion the president said that he had been informed that Isabel would return to the country 12 days after that day; that is, next weekend.

Yesterday, another government source stated that Alfonsin had talked to Isabel.

In addition to the protocol greeting, the dialogue between the current and previous constitutional presidents has great importance since they could have made some progress regarding the setting of the date to start the political dialogue, as well as arranging Isabel's participation in that meeting.

In May, President Alfonsin will start the political dialogue. The talks will start with the Peronist Party, since it is the most important opposition party.

SENATOR ANNOUNCES VISIT OF UK PARLIAMENTARIANS

PY231546 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1402 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (DYN) -- Justicialist Party Senator Julio Amoedo today announced that Labor and Conservative British parliamentarians will arrive "in the next few weeks" to hold talks with their Argentine counterparts. Amoedo arrived at Ezeiza International Airport from Geneva, where he attended an international meeting of parliamentarians during which he contacted members of the British Parliament.

The Justicialist senator also disclosed that the British parliamentarians have asked for "understanding" from Argentina, because they claimed that in the Malvinas War the British forces "did not fight the Argentine people, but the Argentine Government."

Amoedo announced that in the course of the dialogue he held with the British lawmakers in Geneva, he asked them to advocate trials in London for those responsible for the "war crime" on sinking the cruiser General Belgrano.

URUGUAY'S FERREIRA ALDUNATE ARRIVES IN CAPITAL

PY231543 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1437 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (DYN) -- Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, a former Uruguayan presidential candidate who is prohibited from participating in Uruguayan politics, arrived in Argentina at 1130 [1430 GMT]. He was met by numerous Uruguayan political leaders, including Carlos Pereyra, who was Ferreira's running mate. In the neighborhood of Ezeiza Airport, where Ferreira still remains at 1130 [1430 GMT], there is currently a long and noisy caravan of vehicles. The occupants of the vehicles are carrying Argentine and Uruguayan flags and placards that read: "Ferreira-President."

ARMS SHIPMENT CAUSES 'WAVE OF INDIGNATION'

PY231415 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpts] An explanation could be given today regarding the shipment of arms, brought into Bolivia by a plane from the French Republic, which has caused an uproar in in the country.

In fact, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata made some exclusive statements to Panamericana in which he said that these arms will be given the use they are destined for and that it is quite possible that they will be handed over to the pertinent author authorities today. The minister pointed out that the shipment includes only submachine-guns and ammunition, and stated that the Bolivian police force could not fully comply with its duty -- in its struggle against drug trafficking, for example -- therefore, it is necessary to supply them with arms.

The wave of indignation regarding this shipment continues in Bolivia. The head of the Cochabamba Departmental Labor Confederation stated that we need food, not arms. He added that by bringing arms into the country it seems that the government is seeking to subject us to a civil war, which is something that we, workers, emphatically reject.

Congressmen of Santa Cruz have also voiced their deep concern over this episode and have announced an extraordinary congressional session to discuss the subject.

Various civilian, political, student, neighborhood, and other types of organizations have requested that those arms remain with the Armed Forces since this is the only organization that, according to the Constitution, is authorized to carry war arms.

The entire Bolivian population, safeguarding the country's interests, demands that the government give an urgent and convincing answer to this issue.

Siles Intervenes

PY231855 Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (AFP) -- President Hernan Siles Zuazo has decided that the 1,200 machineguns that were donated by France to fight drug trafficking will remain in the custody of the Defense Ministry, which has been disputing their ownership with the police.

The machineguns were brought into Bolivia last Wednesday in a four turbine DC-8 cargo plane of the SFAR Company. The shipment was made under a government-to-government agreement signed between France and Bolivia 8 months ago.

The fact that the crates were labeled food to avoid problems at stopover airports has elicited strong criticism from opposition parties.

The problem of who keeps the machineguns seems to have ended, because National Defence Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo has announced that the arms will remain in the custody of the Armed Forces, which might turn them over to the police in quantities which the control of the drug-traffic effort requires.

ARMY DIVISION ALLEGEDLY RISES AGAINST GOVERNMENT

PY232125 Paris AFP in Spanish 2115 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (AFP) -- General Haroldo Pinto, commander of the 5th Army Division headquartered in Robore (on the border with Brazil, 1,500 km southeast of La Paz), has risen in arms against the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo. It is still not known what the demands of this military officer, whose position seems thus far isolated, are. As soon as the insurrection was known, Siles Zuazo called an urgent meeting of the military high command.

Partial Confirmation

PY232222 Paris AFP in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (AFP) -- General Haroldo Pinto, commander of the 5th Army Division headquartered in Robore (1,500 km southeast of La Paz), today rose against the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo. Gen Pinto was chief of the 3d Department (operations) of the Army Command during the government of General Luis Garcia Meza (1980-1981).

The report was partially confirmed by a presidential military aide who told AFP that Gen Pinto has apparently issued a proclamation to the nation.

Gen Pinto, who was assigned to Robore as soon as the democratic government of Siles Zuazo came into power, was promoted to general in January this year by a majority decision of the Senate.

In recent days there has been great uneasiness within the Armed Forces over the arrival of 200 [as received] French submachineguns which were intended for the police. The possibility that Gen Pinto's uprising may be related to this incident has not been ruled out.

Cable Notes Revolt

PY232245 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 2233 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] We have an urgent cable datelined La Paz which notes that according to Bolivian government sources, the 4th [as heard] Army Division has revolted today against the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, whose resignation has been requested.

The rebellion is headed by General Haroldo Pinto, who noted that he has the support of other military units.

The Bolivian Government's permanent executive committee has called an emergency meeting to define the political situation, while President Siles Zuazo has demanded that the military command submit a full report on the rebellion that is taking place in Robore, located 1,500 km southeast of La Paz, near the Brazilian border.

Gen Pinto Reportedly Isolated

PY232314 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (AFP) -- General Haroldo Pinto, commander of the 5th Army Divsion headquartered in Robore (1,500 km southeast of La Paz), has sent telegrams to the other garrisons throughout the country harshly criticizing the democratic government of Hernan Siles Zuazo, but this atitude of rebellion remains completely isolated, sources close to the Army command have told AFP.

Nevertheless, the situation is being analyzed at Government House by leaders of the UDP, the Democratic and Popular Unity, which is the ruling coalition. The UDP is made up of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI) led by President Siles Zuazo, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), led by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party (PCB), and the Christian Democratic Party (DM).

At first it was feared that the attitude of Gen Pinto might be echoed in other Armed Forces units, as happened with the statement that General Ruben Sanabria made in Trinidad (Beni), in northern Bolivia, a few hours before the coup staged by General Luis Garcia Meza, who overthrew acting constitutional President Lidia Queiler Tejada on 17 July 1980.

Military sources have reported that Gen Pinto will be discharged from duty in the next few hours.

Government Studying Uprising

PY232309 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] We have here an urgent bulletin carried by the EFE news agency, datelined La Paz, 24 April [as heard].

The cable reads as follows:

The 4th [as heard] Bolivian Army Division has revolted against the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo, who has been asked to resign. Perhaps our colleague, (Omar Valazquez), is able to expand on this.

Good afternoon.

The fact that we have received this cable shows that the Bolivian press is of no use.

(Hermes Rivero), what do you have for us?

Thank you, (Tomas), well this is an EFE cable which notes:

The 4th Bolivian Army Division has revolted today against the government headed by President Hernan Siles Zuazo, whose resignation is demanded.

Which one of you is aware of something in this regard?

Well, we have no official confirmation about this, but we must note that the 4th Army Division is headquartered in Robore, in Santa Cruz Department, and that it is headed by General Haroldo Pinto. But we reassert that we have no offical reports in this regard.

Thank you Jaime. [words indistinct]

Can we add anything in this regard? No, I do not think we should comment on this yet, but needless to say we shall, of course, keep close watch on the development that has been reported by the EFE news agency. [Name indistinct] is also with us.

Thank you (Jaime), thank you, (Ramiro). We must note that at this time Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo has called Armed Forces representatives to an important meeting to evaluate the present national situation of reports which note that there is an uprising in Santa Cruz against President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

The UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] executive committee is at this time holding a meeting at Government House to evaluate this situation. However, government circles believe that this is an isolated event, but nevertheless it is an issue of concern.

Government Issues Denial

PY232340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2329 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government tonight denied that a military uprising against constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo has taken place in the country.

Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo was charged with denying the report about the military uprising.

The insurrection was initially attributed to General Haroldo Pinto, commander of the 4th [as received] Army Divison, which is headquartered in the city of Robore, near the border with Brazil.

Cardenas Mallo said the only thing that Gen Pinto sent was a cable to the high military command demanding that it request from the government the French weapons which arrived last week for the Interior Ministry.

These weapons, which total 1,200, were donated by the French Government to the Bolivian Government to fight the drug traffic.

Minister, Mayor Deny Revolt

PY240127 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Commenting on reports that the 5th Army Division headquartered in Robore has revolted against the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas has said that the situation in the various military units of the country is normal.

In response to questions posed by reporters, the minister explained that the 5th Division had asked the authorities that the arms that have recently arrived in Bolivia be handed over to the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] There are no indications of subversive movements or revolts, which are situations foreseen by the military penal code.

[Unidentified reporter] Excuse me, Minister, but isn't there a similar proclamation from Camiri?

[Cardenas] As I said before, absolute tranquillity prevails in all garrisons, that is, in all divisions. [end recording]

The minister explained that not only Robore but also Trinidad and other military units have made similar requests. He added that the arms that have just arrived are being kept at the Defense Ministry storage facilities, and that it was the Interior Ministry and not the Defense Ministry which imported the arms. The arms are being kept at the Defense Ministry in keeping with the instructions given by President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

[Begin Cardenas recording] [Words indistinct] the report that originated with the situation in Robore. However, unfortunately for all of those who would like the Armed Forces to stage a coup, I will report that the high command met in my office at 1600. The meeting was attended by General Villarroel, General Sejas, and General Villa. We analyzed not only the Robore case but also the several reports that had been released on the matter. Some 30 minutes ago Gen Sejas got in touch with General Haroldo Pinto, the 5th Division commander in Robore.

Gen Pinto said that all military activities were being carried out normally. On the other hand, Air Force Commander General Oscar Villa Urioste talked with Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Dardo Gomez, who is the commander of the 61st Group headquartered in Robore. Gomez also confirmed that everything was normal. [end recording]

In the wake of the reports released by international news agencies on an alleged revolt against the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo at the Robore Army Division, Panamericana contacted the Mayor of Robore. This is what he told us:

[Begin recording] [Mayor] I can hear you perfectly. I want to tell you, on behalf of my town, that absolute tranquillity prevails in Robore. Over.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Mayor, do you have any information on a report on a 5th Army Division pronouncement asking the government that the arms which arrived in our country be handed over to the Armed Forces? Over.

[Mayor] We know nothing about that here. Absolute tranquillity prevails here. Over.

[Reporter] Mr Mayor, we reiterate our question. Hasn't the 5th Army Division headed by Gen Pinto issued any proclamation thus far? Over.

[Mayor] Nothing at all. Nothing of the sort. Tranquillity prevails in this town. We know nothing about what you are asking. Over. [end recording]

Pinto Issues Radiogram

PY240300 Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (AFP) -- General Haroldo Pinto, commander of the 5th Army Division headquartered in Robore, 1,500 km southeast of La Paz, which today rose in arms against the government, charged that the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo is inciting guerrillas.

In a radiogram addressed to other military units, Gen Pinto states that the government has been characterized by the promotion of guerrilla activity in the country and that the arrival of a plane with 1,200 submachineguns confirms this. He adds that the latter is a threat to the Army. In view of this, Gen Pinto requests that the submachineguns, which were donated by the French Government and which arrived in Bolivia last Wednesday, should remain in the hands of the Armed Forces and that they should not be delivered to the police, which is supposed to use them in the struggle against drug trafficking.

During a statement to the press in which he said that the military situation is under control, Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo only disclosed the second half of the radiogram.

Moreover, the 20th Mine Workers Congress, which is being held in Mina Matilde (70 km northeast of La Paz) tonight decided to grant its unconditional support to the democratic process in the country.

In keeping with their support, the miners decided to reject the proposal to hold an indefinite general strike to protest against the economic measures that were decreed by the government last Wednesday and according to which the Bolivian peso was devalued by 300 percent and the prices of staples were increased.

However, the factory workers federation has decreed an indefinite general strike as of Tuesday to protest these economic measures. The different positions held by the many labor sectors will be discussed by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) leaders in a meeting to be held on Wednesday.

FOOD PRODUCTION OFF; SHORTAGE ANTICIPATED

PY231435 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Miguel Urioste, general secretary of the presidency, has stated that despite the government's efforts to increase foodstuff production this year, there will still be a shortage. He stated that unfortunately, due to various factors, foodstuff production still remains 25 percent lower than that of last year. Minister Urioste stated that the government is making a systematic effort at all levels to find a solution to the economic difficulties the people are experiencing. He ended by pointing out that the government authorities are optimistic that they will be able to set the country back on the path for a real reactivation of its economy.

LECHIN REELECTED HEAD OF MINEWORKERS FEDERATION

PY231540 Paris AFP in Spanish 0048 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 22 Apr (AFP) -- It has been reported that Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], was reelected in Mina Matilda (70 km northeast of La Paz) as executive secretary of the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB] that has just held its 20th congress.

Lechin has held this post since the FSTMB was founded, four decades ago, which gives him a great chance of being reelected COB leader during this organization's congress that will start on 11 June.

Scores Economic Policy

PY231412 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], has stated that the negotiations between the COB and the economic team failed due to the lack of any positive solutions and the government's refusal to modify its economic policy.

Lechin, together with four other labor leaders, took part in four meetings with the economic team which started on Tuesday, the 17th, and ended yesterday.

In compliance with a decision reached at the extraordinary meeting held on 15 April, the COB leaders started meetings with government authorities with the purpose of implementing the socioeconomic emergency program proposed by the COB to replace the government's economic package, which has been rejected by the Bolivian workers.

In sum, it can be stated that no agreement was reached by the government and the labor leaders regarding any of the basic points. Lechin stated that the government does not want to make any changes in its economic policy and fewer still regarding prices and salaries.

'UNPRECEDENTED' MILITARY PARADE IN BRASILIA

PY232036 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 23 Apr 84

[By Francisco Figueroa]

[Text] Brasilia, 23 Apr (EFE) -- An unprecedented military parade, which was an open display of power, has been staged in Brasilia, which is under emergency measures. The parade marked the beginning of a week in which the future of Brazil will be decided.

The parade was a crowning point in the pressure that the military government of President Joao Figueiredo is exercising to prevent the immediate restoration of the free and direct balloting system for the election of the president. The parade also marked the fifth day of enforcement of the emergency measures that have isolated Brasilia on the eve of the congressional debate over a constitutional amendment bill. Through this bill, the opposition will try to impose the direct balloting system for the election of the next president.

More than 5,000 soldiers and modern weapons paraded to commemorate the 24th anniversary of the creation of the Planalto Command (the Brasilia military region), whose chief, General Newton Cruz, is in charge of enforcing the emergency measures. In the middle of a tense atmosphere of uncertainty over the political future of the country, paratroopers, elite units, antiriot police squads, armored infantry units, combat vehicles, and artillery units staged what turned out to be the largest show of military might ever seen in Brasilia.

The liberal press today said that the parade was the Figueiredo government's answer to the millions of demonstrators throughout Brazil demanding that the successor of the current president be elected by direct ballot in January 1985.

However, Gen Cruz, a controversial military officer who -- according to Figueiredo -- "acts like Mussolini," said in his speech to the troops before the parade that the military presence is a "symbol of political normalcy."

Gen Cruz will be in charge of handling the censorship of radio and television. This measure was adopted to prevent the congressional debates from being broadcast. To evade this measure against press freedom, opposition parties are setting up loudspeaker systems in the main cities. Through these systems, deputies, acting as improvised announcers, will cover the debates over the phone.

Under orders from Gen Cruz, police cordoned off Brasilia, preventing the arrival of political activists who, as of today, were to begin pressuring Congress to restore the direct balloting system. Despite the blockade, the so-called "municipal front," made up of mayors and councilmen who are in favor of the direct system, began arriving in Brasilia today to pressure ruling party lawmakers to vote for the amendment.

The national university was closed today after a student meeting decreed a strike protesting the emergency measures and demanding the restoration of the direct election system.

The National (bicameral) Congress will decide on Wednesday whether after 20 years of military rule the people will recover their right to choose the president of the Republic. The legislative branch, amidst great nationwide expectations, will deal with the amendment for holding elections through the direct ballot system, something which entails a deadly blow to the political system imposed through a 1964 coup d'etat.

The parties that are opposing the government are sponsoring the amendment as a bloc and they are supported by the dissident factions within the government bloc and, above all, by most Brazilians, who took to the streets by the millions over the past 3 months with the slogan "direct elections now."

Today, at the very outset of this decisive week for the country's future, nobody could rule out that the amendment [might] be approved, although the government has enough leverage in Congress to defeat it; not speaking of the official offensive against the direct ballot system.

Gen Figueiredo is holding personal meetings, contacts that he intensified today, with pro-government congressmen of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) so that they will cling together against the amendment for the direct ballot system, better known as the "Dante de Oliveira amendment," named after the deputy who introduced it. Within the PDS there is a dissident faction called "pro-direct ballot system," which today was very optimistic on its capability to approve, along with the opposition, the amendment, something which requires two-thirds of the Congress' vote.

The alternative to the amendment for holding direct elections is the continuity for at least 4 more years, since President Figueiredo has proposed presidential elections for 1988. The latter are to take place after a term is served by a new president elected by the indirect ballot system [in 1985] by an electoral college controlled by the government.

POLICE SURROUND BRASILIA UNIVERSITY, CUT ROADS

NC240707 Paris AFP in English 0625 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, April 23 (AFP) -- Troops surrounded the University of Brasilia when 2,000 students demonstrated there Monday in favor of direct elections of Brazil's president by the people.

At the same time, military police blocked roads into this capital and turned back 500 mayors and councilmen from other cities who were coming to urge Congress to permit direct elections.

The student demonstrations were in defiance of a ban on gatherings imposed by the military regime last Thursday until after Congress has voted next Wednesday on a constitutional amendment for direct elections.

Despite the ban, about 500 other mayors and city councilmen had succeeded earlier in the day in reaching Congress to plead the direct-election cause after flying to Brasilia.

Then a debate on the ban nearly turned into a brawl in the Chamber of Deputies (Lower House) as members of the ruling party and the opposition insulted each other.

U.S. STEEL SURCHARGE 'ANNOYS' FINANCE MINISTER

PY240026 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Apr 84 p 38

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas is markedly annoyed at the decision of the U.S. Department of Commerce to increase the surcharge on carbon steel imported from Brazil. The surcharge on cold and hot-rolled steel sheets, products that had been paying a 27.42-percent tariff because of charges they were being subsidized, was established on Thursday: the products of the National Iron and Steel Company, of the Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company, and of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc] will pay a 62-percent, 26-percent, and 17-percent surcharge, respectively.

The fact that annoys Brazilian negotiators most is that practically no measures were taken against Mexico, which was in the same situation, because the Department of Commerce dropped all the charges against that country. In the opinion of a high-ranking Itamaraty source, the decision made by the United States on Thursday is purely political and retaliatory, and is meant to exercise strong pressure to force Brazil to open its computer market, which is reserved for local mini and microcomputer manufacturers.

When the United States imposed th 27.42-percent surcharge, Brazil immediately imposed an identical surcharge for the purpose of negotiating an agreement, but the United States refused to negotiate. However, the surcharge was not lifted. Brazil expected that the Department of Commerce would take into account the situation before making its decision, but the United States did just the opposite, that is, it increased the surcharge, on the grounds that it discovered new subsidies. One of the main U.S. demands refers to the interest rates on the loans that the government grants to exporters.

Minister Galveas will refer to the issue this week.

RAID ON 'LEFTIST' WEEKLY IN BRASILIA SCORED

PY231655 Paris AFP in Spanish 2319 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Apr (AFP) -- The Union Journalists of Brasilia and the Brazilian Press Association (ABI) have issued official communiques scoring the raid and plundering of the left-wing weekly HORA DO POVO, which was perpetrated in Brasilia today by individuals claiming to be policemen.

The two organizations called upon the authorities to disclose the identity of the perpetrators of this violent action carried out within the framework of the emergency measures the Brazilian Government implemented in Wednesday to ensure the freedom of congressional activities for the voting of a constitutional amendment which seeks of immediately reestablish direct presidential elections. This amendment will be voted on next Wednesday.

The two journalist associations indicated in the communiques released tonight that measures against the press will not help ensure the freedom of congressional activities.

ARSONISTS ATTACK 'LEFTIST' WEEKLY IN SAO PAULO

PY231825 Paris AFP in Spanish 2233 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, 22 Apr (AFP) — The installations of the leftist newspaper TRIBUNA OPERARIA have been destroyed by a fire that reportedly was set by right-wing terrorists.

The directors of the weekly, which reported this incident, did not identify the arsonists, but only said that three individuals who managed to escape had started the fire.

An official note from the newspaper directors said that the terrorists will not succeed in intimidating the TRIBUNA OPERARIA journalists who, the note pointed out, will continue to demand the immediate reestablishment of direct presidential elections in Brazil.

REPAIRED BRITISH HERCULES C-130 LEAVES RIO

PY191220 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Apr 84 p 7

[Excerpt] The Galeao Air Base Public Relations Office, through Major Costa Xavier, has disclosed that the British Air Force Hercules C-130 left at 0912 yesterday after mechanics of the Brazilian Air Force finished repairing it on Monday. The British aircraft -- a military cargo plane -- which left Rio de Janeiro for an unknown destination, made an emergency landing in Galeao Airport on Sunday.

Argentine Position Criticized

PY192014 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Apr 84 p 10

[Editorial: "Unrealistic Attitudes"]

[Text] The emergency landing of a British plane on Brazilian soil has once again provoked comments and concern about the "Argentine position" on this case. Although avoiding making formal statements, Argentine diplomatic representatives have taken this occasion to emphasize that the landing was authorized this time by the Air Force Staff, and not just by the commander of the base where the landing was to take place (Galeao), as had been done in the past. Based on this, Argentine diplomats have emphasized "the exceptional nature of this authorization considering Brazil's neutrality in the Argentine-British dispute over the Falklands. [quotation marks as published]

All this shows an ambiguity which must be urgently eliminated. There is no war over the Falklands. Although Argentina has thus far refused to formally accept a cessation of hostilities, the war is over. Therefore, any artificial obstacles which may have troubled the always excellent Brazilian-British relations have automatically disappeared. Within this context, the landing of British planes on Brazilian soil is just as natural as the switch from day to night.

Or does our Foreign Ministry happen to disagree with this conclusion? Will Brazilian policy in this field now be dependent on orders from Buenos Aires as a result of the Third World-oriented position which now prevails at Itamaraty?

We have nothing to do with the Falklands dispute just as we have no say in the Indo-Pak dispute over Kashmir. Argentina may have its particular view on this question as long as it does not bring another war to this continent. Yet Brazil must attend to its own interests, among which is that of maintaining perfectly normal relations with the United Kingdom. Anything outside this framework should be considered as sheer deceptive efforts by those who mistake foreign policy for irresponsible actions prompted by emotional drives.

BRIEFS

FRENCH COMPANY NATIONALIZED -- The Brazilian subsidiary of the French company COMEX, which specializes in underwater work, has been nationalized through a merger with Tenenge and the marine drilling Brastech Company. The COMEX subsidiary had been doing underwater work at the Campos offshore oil field, 300 kilometers northeast of Rio de Janeiro. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1756 GMT 19 Apr 84 PY]

SHLAUDEMAN'S ARRIVAL, STATEMENTS IN BOGOTA NOTED

PA231607 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota -- Harry Shlaudeman, President Reagan's roving ambassador to Central America, this morning will discuss with President Belisario Betancur the Contadora Group's efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Central American conflicts.

The Contadora Group offers the possibility of a peaceful and durable solution of the Central American problem, Shlaudeman said upon his arrival in Bogota, adding that he is optimistic about what the Contadora Group can accomplish in Central America.

Shlaudeman toured the Central American nations 2 weeks ago after replacing Richard Stone as roving ambassador.

In his comments yesterday upon his arrival in Bogota, Shlaudeman ruled out the possibility of a meeting between President Reagan and Fidel Castro to pave the way for a negotiated solution for Central America.

FINANCE MINISTER DEPLORES NEW CREDIT CONDITIONS

PA231559 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian banks are currently negotiating each transaction conducted in foreign currency on an individual basis after their correspondents in the United States and Panama imposed stricter conditions on the opening of routine credits. The new conditions have made these credit lines virtually inaccessible to Colombian banks.

Finance Minister Edgar Gutierrez Castro deplored the measure, saying that it is one of those unfortunate attitudes that are typical of the international banking system which, instead of easing Colombia's financial situation, further aggravates it.

Gutierrez told CARACOL that several bank directors in those two countries have imposed previously nonexistent requirements, such as detailing the final destination of each client's credits in foreign currency, thus curtailing the autonomy that was enjoyed in the past and increasing interest rates.

The finance minister said that the measures stem from the phenomenon of international financial contraction which leads to stricter credit conditions making the terms for credit less favorable and restricting the treasury's reserves.

DRUG TRAFFICKER SEEKS EXTRADITION DENIAL

PA201810 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Apr 84 p 8A

[Excerpt] Carlos Lehder, one of the drug traffickers most sought by U.S. authorities, has announced that he is willing to appear before Colombian judges if President Belisario Betancur can guarantee that he will not be extradited.

Lehder has sent a letter to the president through his attorney, Hernan Valencia Echeverri. A copy of the letter has been sent to this newspaper. The drug trafficker, who has publicly admitted that he made his huge fortune by selling marijuana in the United States, has been in hiding since late 1983 when the U.S. justice system indicted him.

In a ruling issued on 29 November 1983, the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice approved Lehder's extradition. Lehder is a founder of the National Latin Movement which, despite the fact that its leader was a fugitive, participated in the March elections for councilmen and deputies.

Despite the Supreme Court of Justice' ruling, President Betancur has the power to decide whether he will turn Lehder over to the U.S. authorities. On previous occasions, the president refused to extradite Emiro de Jesus Mejia and Lucas Gomez Vangrieken, both of whom were sought by the U.S. Government. According to Valencia, Lehder is tired of not being able to move about in society as he would like, and he hopes Colombian justice can favorably resolve his situation.

M-19 SEIZES PAPER, ISSUES DIALOGUE PROPOSAL

PA232144 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1951 GMT 23 Apr 84

[By Ricardo Esteban Sabogal]

[Text] Bogota, 23 Apr (EFE) -- The 19 April Movement, M-19, today proposed a great opening to the Colombian Government in the political, economic, and social areas as the basic formula for achieving peace. In a 12-page newspaper edition that was distributed with EL BOGOTANO -- which was taken over by the guerrillas for 5 hours -- the M-19 pointed out that its proposal seeks a resolution to the country's problems and undoubtedly will lead to peace.

The proposal, under the title "M-19 Proposal for National Dialogue," points out that "the oligarchy and not the people must pay for the current economic crisis because the oligarchy is again trying to make the people pay for others' mistakes, finance the embezzlements of unscrupulous economists, and carry on their shoulders the weight of the crisis." It added that the democratic opening is to achieve the people's participation in the great national decisions and break up the two-party system (Liberals and Conservatives) "to give dynamism to politics and establish equal rights under the law for all the forces struggling to achieve power in the country."

In the economic area, the M-19 proposed the nationalization of all the banks, an antimonopoly law, the protection and development of national industries, democratization of credits, reactivation of the agrarian and livestock sector, urban development, tax reforms, and the creation of a national commission for natural resources.

Regarding what it termed "social democracy," the rebel movement demanded free distribution of milk, financing for low-income housing projects without a down payment, nationalization of transportation, improvement and enlargement of public services, and a general salary increase. It also demanded free and mandatory primary education, enlargement of the health benefits coverage, respect for Indian reservations, and plans to include Indian settlements in the national economic plans.

In the political area, according to the M-19, it is necessary to establish rights and guarantees for the opposition, provide government financing for political campaigns, carry out electoral reforms and civil registry reforms, and establish an administrative career service for all government employees.

Some of the M-19's demands for a peace dialogue include: popular election of mayors and governors; the reorganization of public administration, municipal, and departmental structures; and some constitutional amendments.

The newspaper edition published today also called on the people to support the M-19's goals and asserted that the revolutionary movement is continuing to prove with facts and proposals that it is ready for a dialogue while it is also ready for war.

Regarding international topics, the guerrillas demanded a foreign policy that respects the people's right to self-determination, the immediate withdrawal of Colombian troops from the Sinai, and the suspension of all aid to South Africa.

The M-19 published its proposal after threatening the workers of EL BOGOTANO at dawn today. Some 25 guerrillas took over the newspaper's facilities and printed 12 pages, which they had already prepared for the rotary press process. In order to guarantee the distribution of the combined newspapers, the subversives kidnapped a journalist of EL BOGOTANO for several hours, but he has already been released.

SEARCH FOR REBELS ENSUES AFTER DYNAMITE ATTACK

PA231719 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Arauca -- A vast military search is continuing 24 hours after rebels carried out a terrorist attack against the La Voz de Caribare radio station, which is part of the CARACOL Network system. A column of the National Liberation Army, ELN, yesterday dynamited the radio's transmitter causing approximately 10 million pesos worth of property damage. The station is 6 km from Saravena on the road to Fortuna.

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNOR APPOINTED -- Liberal economist Jorge Herrera Barona has been appointed new governor of Valle del Cauca Department. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Apr 84 p 1 A PA]

FRG COMMISSION VISITS -- Bogota -- A tripartite commission from the FRG has met with President Betancur to offer cooperation in matters of domestic security and the fight against drug trafficking. The commission members met with Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla and visited the eastern lowlands to learn firsthand about the drug trafficking problem. The group will also visit Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia, where there are drug trafficking centers. The visitors have expressed their interest in cooperating with the various area governments in the anti-drug struggle and they are currently studying a joint action program designed to eradicate drug trafficking. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 84 PA]

GOLD SALES INCREASE -- The Colombian Government will increase gold sales this year because of the decline in the price of gold on the international market. The Bank of the Republic's policy is to increase the amount of gold sales when the price declines in order to maintain the level of incoming foreign exchange. In January, Colombia sold 28,000 ounces of gold; in February, 20,000 ounces; and in March 60,000 ounces. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Apr 84 pp 1, 2 PA]

COSTA RICA

DEPUTIES TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED CIA BRIBERY

PA240243 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] A special commission of five deputies will have 30 days to investigate the charges made by the U.S. ABC network and THE NEW YORK TIMES. The two reported that Costa Rican Government officials have been bribed by the CIA, and this both tarnishes the country's prestige and seriously harms its international image. The charge in such prestigious media could harm the relations of [word indistinct] and mutual benefit between the United States and Costa Rica. The strict observance of the principle of nonintervention is advisable for our country's high interests. On the basis of this, Deputy Oscar Aguilar and other deputies of the Social Christian Union requested that the special investigative commission be created.

MINISTRY SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO NICARAGUA

PA240156 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0124 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Government today sent a protest note to the Nicaraguan Government over "serious military attacks on the national territory" that took place 1 week ago. According to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry note, "on 17 April at 1540, members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] attacked the sector of Penas Blancas in Costa Rica with mortar fire that fell only 2 meters from the Inter-American Highway. [quotation marks as received]

According to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry, the impact caused a landslide of stones to fall on the highway near a vehicle with Costa Rican license plates that was occupied by two persons, who were in serious danger of death." [quotation marks as received]

According to the protest note, 15 minutes later "members of the Civil Guard who inspected the scene of the incident were attacked by EPS members for 6 minutes with machinegun fire."

On the 19th of this month, the Costa Rican note added, "a Sandinist Air Force 'push-and-pull' plane violated national airspace and staged a 70-mm rocket and machinegun attack on the Civil Guard garrison near Barra del Colorado, in the easternmost area of the border with Nicaragua." The Costa Rican Government reported "material damage caused by this attack, which could also have cost the lives of the members of that garrison." "Since there is no reason whatsoever to justify these serious attacks, the Costa Rican Government presents its most energetic protest, hoping that the Nicaraguan Government will investigate the incident and punish those responsible and that it will adopt measures to prevent the recurrence of similar acts," the protest note concluded.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA DISCUSSES MOVE OF EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

PA232322 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2228 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- According to a statement by Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana, the possibility that Israel will aid in solving the serious economic problems of El Salvador is one of the reasons for transferring the Salvadoran Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In a telephone comment to ACAN-EFE, Magana said that the decision had been under study since the middle of last year, when a government delegation led by Francisco Jose Guerrero, then minister of the presidency, visited Israel. "Last year," Magana added, "we faced serious financial and technical assistance problems, and Israel is the only country with the possibility of helping us."

Muhammad Ali Kamal, the Egyptian ambassador to this capital until a few days ago, in a statement to ACAN-EFE today said the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry has not officially reported the reason for the transfer of the embassy in Israel. "No one knows," said the diplomat, who will leave the country at the end of this week after having stayed here for 2 and 1/2 years. According to diplomatic sources, there is now the fear in Salvadoran official circles that some Arab country would recognize a guerrilla government installed in an area under guerrilla control. The Egyptian ambassador told ACAN-EFE that his government would not make such a move, but that he could not speak on behalf of the rest of the Arab nations. Libya and Algeria are considered the Islamic countries that are closest to the FMLN, some of whose groups have received military training in those two countries. President Magana was not very clear in that respect, although he did say that an increase in the cooperation between the guerrillas and some Arab countries "might happen."

DUARTE THREATENS 'MEASURES' AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA240131 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0015 GMT 24 Apr 84

[By Robert Block]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 23 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte, leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] of El Salvador, threatened today to take measures against Nicaragua if it continues to support the leftist guerrillas once he is elected president. Duarte might become the next president of El Salvador on 6 May if he defeats his ultraright-wing rival, Roberto D'Aubuisson of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). "I am ready to seek ways to talk with the gentlemen in Nicaragua so that they will not continue to support the war and thus end this intervention," Duarte told REUTER in an interview. "If they do not stop, El Salvador will adopt the necessary measures against Nicaragua," Duarte warned, although he did not say what the measures might be.

REBEL LEADER UNGO MEETS WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS

For a Paris AFP report on FDR President Guillermo Ungo's meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, including their discussion of the war in El Salvador, the respective roles of France and the United States in the region, and the upcoming Salvadoran presidential elections, see the France section of the 23 April Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

GUATEMALA

ARMY CLAIMS SUCHITEPEQUEZ UNDER CONTROL

PA232048 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1814 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan Army has gained control of the areas southeastern Suchitepequez Department that the guerrillas had seized after several days of an antiguerrilla offensive that included bombings.

Official Army spokesman Colonel Edgar Djalma Dominguez told ACAN-EFE in a telephone interview that the detachments of Military Zone No 13, which includes Suchitepequez, last week conducted a "search and destroy operation to rid the area of rebels."

The colonel added that "the operation was headed by Colonel Erick Ponce, the new zone commander, and included artillery and air raids, which forced several pockets of rebels who were operating in the area to retreat and evacuate the area. "The clashes took place in the area of Pamaxan, in the jurisdiction of Chicacao municipality, where 1 officer and 10 soldiers were killed in a guerrilla ambush on 21 March. Col Erick Ponce, who is a counterinsurgency specialist, is the former military commander of Alta Verapaz Department, located north of Guatemala City. He was accused by peasant groups there of using "brutal tactics against the population."

Col Djalma said that the military action in Suchitepequez was aimed at preventing such ambushes from being repeated. "The situation in Chicacao is different now, and it is no longer necessary for the local residents to use safe-conducts," Col Djalma added, indicating that Military Zone No 13 had reported no casualties in the operation.

Djalma explained that the Civil Self-Defense Patrols [Patrullas de Autodefensa Civil] had also taken part in the Suchitepequez operation in support of the Army units. There were no other clashes during Holy Week, the military spokesman reported. The upsurge of rebel activity in Guatemala has caused the death of 1 officer, 16 soldiers, and approximately 10 rebels in clashes and ambushes since mid-March. A few days ago the guerrillas threatened to obstruct the roadworks projects that the Army Corps of Engineers is carrying out in El Quiche and Alta Verapaz Departments in western Guatemala. On 13 April eight members of the Corps of Engineers were killed in a guerrilla ambush in Uspatan, El Quiche Department, 200 km from Guatemala City.

NICARAGUA

SOLDIER STEALS TRUCK, KILLS 12 ON HIGHWAY

PA231707 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry in Managua on 22 April]

[Excerpt] The Defense Ministry reports that on 20 April at 1730, a member of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], Gregorio Marquez Blanco of the rearguard of the 1st Military Zone, due to his complete state of drunkenness and his access to military transport vehicles, surreptitiously misappropriated a water truck for his personal use and not in connection with the performance of his duties. As a result of his irresponsible attitude, the said serviceman provoked a tragedy at 1930 at kilometer 135.5 of the Chinandega-Somotillo highway, killing 12 people, including children, and injuring several others.

By order of the defense minister -- Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega commander in chief of the EPS and national chief of the Sandinist People's Militias -- the military judge advocate's office acting directly through its head, EPS Captain (Dennis Moncada Conindres), will immediately take steps to conduct an investigation to enforce the military penal code with full rigor and to dishonorably discharge Gregorio de Jesus Marquez Blanco because of this despicable crime.

COUNTRY TO HOST CONFERENCE OF JOURNALISTS

FL232159 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Prague, April 23, CANA -- A conference of Caribbean and Central American journalists is to be held on June 25 and 26 in Nicaragua, the Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA reported. The conference is sponsored by the Prague-based International Organisation of Journalists, the Latin American Federation of Journalists, and the Nicaraguan Union of Journalists. The conference is "in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and against the U.S. aggression," PRENSA LATINA said. The conference will also discuss the situation of journalists and the press in Grenada after the U.S. invasion last October, and the general political situation in the region.

OPPOSITION SETS DEADLINES ON ELECTION DEMANDS

PLI Leader's Stance

PA240239 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] The Independent Liberal Party, PLI, will hold a new national assembly on 20 May. The PLI, headed by its president, Dr Virgilio Godoy, will reconsider its decision to participate in the November elections. Dr (Silvio Calderon), PLI leader in Leon, indicated that the party has presented several basic demands to the revolutionary government. The PLI leaders expect these demands to be fulfilled by the end of April.

[Begin recording] [(Caderon)] The Government Junta has called for elections to choose a president, a vice president, and a national constituent assembly. These elections have been preceded by the publication and the promulgation of the Poltical Parties Law, its accompanying regulations, and later the Electoral Law. All this has generated doubts and skepticism in the various political parties of the country. These parties have even indicated the possibility of not participating in the elections due to a lack of guarantees.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you then believe that there are no guarantees for the elections, Dr (Calderon)?

[(Calderon)] Yes. As a matter of fact, the PLI will reconsider its decision to participate in the elections slated for 4 November if the FSLN does not fulfill some basic demands we have proposed. These demands, which we are reiterating, are absolutely necessary. They include: lifting the state of emergency and restoring freedom of expression through all news media — radio, press, and television — as well as free access to these news media by all political parties. This freedom is one of the foremost and most sacred rights of all Nicaraguans. Because this right is a sacred one, there cannot exist any law hampering it, nor can there be any prior censorship on such a right for any cause pretext whatsoever. Finally, we also demand full guarantees for political activities, in the fullest sense of the word.

[Reporter] Dr (Calderon), has the PLI set a deadline for the FSLN to fulfill these demands?

[(Calderon)] Yes, we have established the month of April as a deadline for these demands to be met. Should these demands not be satisfactorily met, we will have to reconsider our stance at a special meeting to be held on 20 May at which we will agree on the party's stance regarding the electoral campaign. [end recording]

ARDE Leaders on Proposal

PA240312 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0212 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The political leadership of the Democratic Republican Alliance (ARDE) of Nicaragua today set 31 May 1984 as the deadline for the Nicaraguan Government to accept the "proposal for peace and democracy" that was submitted 2 months ago in order to end the war.

Jose Davila, Alfonso Robelo, Brooklyn Rivera and Zacarias Hernandez, all leaders of the opposition alliance, expressed their final hope that the nine commanders would accept the minimum basic conditions proposed by ARDE on 20 February 1984 to stop the war and participate in the elections. They expressed serious concern that since ARDE has not received a reply during the last 60 days the [FSLN] commanders are indicating that "they attach greater importance to the war than to peace."

Justifying his concern for peace, Robelo, the political leader of ARDE, said that "it is Nicaraguan citizens who are dying." Robelo said that on 12 April 1984 in Bonn he presented the offer that was transmitted to the Sandinist front to determine if the Managua leaders were prepared to negotiate to find peace in Nicaragua. If the reply was positive, the ARDE leader offered to "suspend all military actions immediately" with the sole condition that "freedom of the press be established." Eleven days have passed without a reply from Managua or from Bonn, "and we are not going to wait forever," the ARDE leaders told the press in San Jose.

The basic requirements proposed by ARDE to "establish a trustworthy electoral system in Nicaragua" are contained in the document "for peace and democracy" that was sent to Managua on 20 February 1984, signed by Eden Pastora, Alfonso Robelo, Jose Davila, Donald Castillo and Brooklyn Rivera. The principal requirement to end the violence is that "the FSLN assume an electoral commitment that permits the participation, without exclusions, of all representative forces in the country and their leaders."

The FSLN was asked to "demonstrate a genuine democratic spirit, ending the replacement of the state's functions with those of the party" as well as separating the functions of the Army "from those of the party that holds power." Another of ARDE's conditions is that the whole electoral process must be held in the framework of a climate of national reconciliation and "under the supervision of a Latin American delegation" with appropriate legal instruments.

The principal condition made by the ARDE leaders is "the reestablishment of all public freedoms and the creation of appropriate conditions that will guarantee the activities of opposition forces." They also asked for "the elimination of institutionalized repression and an end to the presence of foreign internationalists and military advisers, as well as a commitment to respect the results of the elections in order to achieve peace and democracy."

SANDINIST OFFICER ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE SEIZURE

PA231821 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] San Juan del Norte has no strategic value to the enemies of the people, but it is a part of Nicaragua and we must defend it at any cost, Subcommander Jaime Agurcia, chief of the border area on the Atlantic side, yesterday told this station.

This small portion of our territory, located in the southeastern part of our country, was chosen by the traitor Pastora to set up his show and request more money from his protector, Yankee imperialism, Subcommander Agurcia said. However, the bravery of 68 reservists of Battalion 90-28 of (Santo Tomas Chontales) responded to the traitor's pretensions because -- although he used his main forces, which included over 500 men -- he was unable to seize San Juan del Norte. A total of 15 reservists died heroically in the course of this action; 53 others were kidnapped after they had exhausted their ammunition. The casualties include: Mario Alvarez, Jose Ernesto Espinoza, Second Lieutenant Lino Mendoza Chavez, and Leonidas Ocan.

GOVERNMENT, REBELS RELEASE CASUALTY FIGURES

Ministry: 139 Killed

PA230108 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0051 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Text] Managua, 23 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- At least 139 persons have been killed in several parts of the country because of the continuous fighting during the past 8 days between Nicaraguan Army troops and anti-Sandinist guerrilla columns, the Defense Ministry reported tonight. An official communique released to the press gives an account of the results of the armed clashes from 16 to 23 April between the forces loyal to the Sandinist government and "counterrevolutionary mercenaries." Of the 139 deaths reported, 120 belonged to the anti-Sandinist columns and 19 to the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), the Defense Ministry reported.

FDN Claims EPS Lost 270

PA240241 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Spokesmen of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] have reported that the FDN has inflicted 270 casualties on the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in battles in Jinotega and Madriz. The FDN regional commandos destroyed several Sandinist (?garrisons), including that of Penas Blancas, which was one of the most fortified. The FDN spokesmen said that the desertions in the EPS ranks are notable, adding that this includes three officers of the Armed Forces who said they would not return to their units because there are orders to execute them.

ARDE MEMBERS INJURED IN ACCIDENTAL MINE BLAST

PA232008 Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 22 Apr (AFP) -- Two members of the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) yesterday were taken to Mexico Hospital in this capital with serious burns caused by a phosphorous explosive. According to them, the explosion occurred accidentally.

Miskito Indians Manaceo Macario and Norman Marcelino told a newspaper that they had "orders to carry" a "caliber"-type phosphorous mine [mina de fosforo tipo "calibre"] when they slipped in a muddy area in Nicaragua's Caribbean coast causing the device to explode. According to them, this kind of mine is "often" provided to the ARDE guerrillas. Macario and Marcelino said that the accident occurred near Rio Grande, about 50 km from the port of Bluefields. ARDE spokesmen, whose propaganda office is in San Jose, denied this report and asserted that the injuries had "been caused by Sandinist Air Force bombings."

Meanwhile, the Mexico Hospital doctors today said that both Macario's legs had been amputated in the past few hours. One of Marcelino's legs was amputated due to the severity of his burns, because "there isn't that much technical knowledge" in this country to treat this kind of burn.

STEADMAN FAGOTH ON ANTI-SANDINIST STRATEGIES

PA231629 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Interview with MISURA leader Steadman Fagoth by Jose Domingo Flores; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leaders are worried over the repeated announcements that the United States will suspend the aid it has been giving the anti-Sandinists. As is already known, after several Nicaraguan ports were mined -- an action directly attributed to the CIA -- a wave of protest surged in the United States, particularly in the legislative branch, which is threatening to forbid President Reagan to continue to help the anti-Sandinist rebels. The Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leaders are worried. MISURA [Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas] leader Steadman Fagoth Muller has said that if the United States suspends its aid to the anti-Sandinists, support will be solicited from other countries, but the struggle will not be suspended. The MISURA leader dicussed this and other subjects in an interview granted to Jose Domingo Flores:

[Begin recording] [Flores] If the economic aid that the United States has been giving the contras were suspended, who would you turn to?

[Fagoth] A suspension of the economic aid that the Reagan administration is currently providing to the anti-Sandinist groups would deal the anti-Sandinist movement a very harsh blow. What else would happen? Sandinism would immediately intensify its repression, which is already being institutionalized. Widespread massacres would ensue, the number of disappearances from jails would increase, and they would intervene more intensely in El Salvador, which they would eat alive in a jiffy. We think that Honduras would fall immediately after El Salvador.

I have asked Senator Edward Kennedy: What are you planning to do with the millions who will leave Central America and Mexico in a mass exodus to the United States? Have you thought about the deaths we have suffered in combat? Well, if that does not interest you, at least think about U.S. security. Do you have some economic plan to aid the millions of immigrants who will come from Central America after the area falls into the hands of international communism? I asked him several questions, and we are still waiting for him to answer, because when I asked him this question through the appropriate channels, he avoided the issue by alleging that it was not the proper forum for answering this question.

[Flores] What has been your strategy so far in the struggle against Sandinism?

[Fagoth] Our strategy has included sobotage, ambushes, and attacks. We spring on them where they least expect us. So far, this strategy has worked well. It has worked two ways: First, we have undermined their economic base as well as their means of transportation and communications. This strategy has also maintained our morale at a very high level, as we are witnessing significant advances.

For instance -- and I am talking now about the area where history has put me to fight Sandinism, which is Zelaya -- there were 27 bridges in this area. Let [Interior Minister] Tomas Borge tell you how many bridges are still left. If he won't tell you, I will: There are only two bridges left in northern Zelaya, of the 27 original ones. The two bridges left are the one over the Kukalaya River, which is too far from us and is too well fortified and protected, and the (Abalsa) Bridge, which is over the (Guava) River. These are the two bridges left to these gentlemen of the original 27. For us, this points to the very positive quantitative results of the strategy that we outlined 6 or 7 months ago. As for our troop's morale, as they have seen results, the situation has been very positive and advantageous.

[Flores] There has been talk that the contras are kidnapping their MISURA countrymen. What is the real situation?

[Fagoth] We (?were leaving] a community where there were about 42 members of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. There was no militia there. We engaged in a clash that lasted about 3 hours. After those 3 hours, we took charge of the settlement, which is what they call it, although I would call it a concentration camp. We stayed there 12 hours. After our objective had been definitely fulfilled, a doctor there joined our ranks along with 122 young men who were described as militia members. They joined us with all their weapons. About 60 of them were armed. They were called members of the People's Militia, or rather reserve battalions. These young men joined us, but they [the Sandinists] call this kidnapping. These young men were between the ages of 18 and 23 and had no responsibilities in the nature of children, homes, and so forth. They joined our ranks and took to the mountains. I can even tell you where they are now. They are near the Prinzapolka River. [end recording]

BRIEFS

SOVIET DONATIONS -- The Soviet Union had donated 14,000 metric tons of corn to Managua, which were delivered to Corinto on the Pacific. So far, Soviet donations to this country have amounted to $184 million in raw materials, intermediate goods, goods for consumption, and food. In the last 4 years Nicaragua has received from that country 22,000 metric tons of wheat, 2,000 tons of vegetable oil, and 1,000 tons of frozen fish. According to a report by the Government Junta, in coming months the Soviet Union will send 12,000 tons of rice, 3,000 tons of soybeans, and 1,000 tons of oatmeal. [Text] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 Apr 84 p 8 PA]

AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO -- Mexico City -- Edmundo Jarquin has been appointed Nicaraguan ambassador to Mexico, according to information released by the Nicaraguan Embassy in this capital. Jarquin was formerly minister of the International Reconstruction Fund, FIR; he will replace Mauricio Cuadra Schultz, who has returned to his country and will be appointed to a post in the Foreign Ministry. [Excerpt] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Apr 84 PA]

NEW EDUCATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS -- Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government for National Reconstruction, yesterday swore in Franciso Guzman as vice president of the National Council for Higher Education. Hernan Sotelo Matus and Jaime Herrera Canales were sworn in as deputy education ministers. [Excerpt] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 10 PA]

FRG REPRESENTATIVES ARRIVE, DISCUSS CONSUMERISM

FL240020 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Gabriel (Gulwart) and John (Nehran), FRG Citizens' Party [Partido Popular] representatives who are visiting Cuba, today met with Eugenio Rodriguez, president of the Cuban Institute of Research and Orientation on Consumer Demand [ICIODI], at his offices.

Rodriguez told the Germans about the research his organization is carrying out and how it is meeting Cuba's demand for consumer goods. He also gave a detailed explanation of how the ICIODI acts as a bridge between consumer goods supply and demand and norms in national consumption studies they conduct. The two German representatives were also interested in the Cuban housing situation, the agricultural production situation, small farm production, and artisan work produced in Cuba.

22 APRIL RUNOFF ELECTIONS TERMED SUCCESS

FL232005 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1932 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The primary and runoff elections for delegates of the People's Government yesterday concluded with great success. Referring to this, Jose Aranaburu, secretary of the National Assembly, announced that 655,589 persons, 95.8 percent of the electorate, had cast their ballots in the runoff, compared to 93.6 percent in the primary elections. Four hundred sixty-nine candidates were elected and of these 66 were women and 78 workers, 16.2 and 16.6 percent, respectively, of those elected.

The election of 1,259 women in our country demonstrates the prestige they gained for their work in the People's Government, Jose Aranaburu noted. He added that 2,471 workers had been elected, more than in previous elections but the same number percentagewise.

He recalled that Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura had praised the efforts of the mass organizations and 250,000 Pioneers in the elections as well as the beautiful initiative of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution in presenting a flower to the first person to vote at each polling station.

He stressed that the success of the elections is one more victory for our socialist democracy, and added that the local offices of the People's Government have been strengthened by these elections, during which more than 50 percent of the delegates were reelected.

On behalf of the People's Government, Jose Aranaburu thanked the media workers who reported on the elections.

PRC-SRV BORDER CLASHES PRECEDE REAGAN VISIT

FL231427 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] China has increased its military attacks against Vietnam just when the U.S. President is expected to arrive in Beijing. The Chinese Army tried to infiltrate two companies of soldiers across the Vietnamese-Chinese border. Thus, Beijing's soldiers tried to occupy a hill located 400 meters inside the Vietnamese Province of Ha Tuyen.

The aggression was preceded by an intense artillery attack, during which the Chinese fired about 6,500 (?rounds) against the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese defenses resisted the enemy fire and the Chinese aggressors had to withdraw with serious losses. During the military action, Vietnamese fire silenced the Chinese artillery. During this aggression, the Chinese caused the deaths of several Vietnamese civilians and injured two children on their way to school.

The Chinese action is part of a series of aggressions in reprisal for the defeats suffered in Kampuchea. Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops carried out a victorious offensive against the remnants of the Pol Pot forces which infiltrated from Thailand. The Pol Pot bandits have the support of Beijing and Bangkok, and they operate along the Kampuchean-Thai border.

It has also been learned that China has signed contracts with U.S. petroleum companies for the exploitation of oil. Yankee monopolies are currently operating in China, removing oil from beneath the Yellow Sea, the Zhu River, the Beibu Gulf, and the Yang Ge Sea. U.S. companies have invested more than $600 million in China and have also formed 21 joint companies.

Reagan's upcoming visit to Beijing from 26 April to 1 May will further facilitate Washington's economic penetration. The Chinese press reports that everything is ready to give Reagan a good reception, and the U.S. press is speculating on the advantages of the visit.

Meanwhile, a Chinese military delegation is touring the United States to study training methods. The Pentagon is awaiting another Chinese military delegation in order to instruct it on logistical problems.

U.S.-MEXICO MEETING REVEALS POLICY DISPARITY

PA231406 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Roberto Laforte in Mexico, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] The recent meeting held in Washington between important Mexican and U.S. officials has again brought to light the big differences that exist in the foreign policies of the two countries and set the tone for the talks to be held by Presidents Ronald Reagan and Miguel de la Madrid next month.

Although a U.S. source has said that the Central America subject had been discussed very briefly by Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, it has been confirmed that the Mexican side strongly reiterated its traditional foreign policy based on principles.

The Washington correspondent of the influential Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR has reported that Foreign Secretary Sepulveda told the United States that it is necessary to stop the military pressure on Nicaragua. Sepulveda said the mining of Nicaraguan ports is illegal and asked that the Washington-backed Salvadoran Government begin talks with the Salvadoran rebels.

This Mexican stance, which is completely contrary to U.S. interests, was the reason why a scheduled news conference to be held jointly by Sepulveda and Shultz was canceled at the last minute.

According to reports from Washington, the talks between President Ronald Reagan and Foreign Secretary Sepulveda were followed by intense discussions at the State Department over the growing tension between the two countries as a direct and logical result of the U.S. war actions in the region.

The marked foreign policy differences on the one hand and the long list of bilateral problems that require immediate attention and solutions on the other are the apparent reasons why the two governments decided to center their discussions on matters that affect bilateral relations and to prevent the contradictory policies on Central America from further complicating the relations between Mexico and Washington, Mexican sources said.

U.S. MANEUVERS SAID UNPRECEDENTED SHOW OF FORCE

FL231858 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The U.S. military maneuvers, "Ocean Venture-84," which are being carried out in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico represent a display of force the likes of which have never before been seen in the area, according to experts.

The operation includes all aspects of modern war, including naval, Air Force, and amphibious Marine operations, as well as parachute drops, air evacuations, and conventional bombings, among other things.

According to U.S. military sources, the exercise will evaluate troop movement and logistical concepts in a realistic training situation. These exercises are occurring when Washington is increasing its aggression against Nicaragua through the CIA, which carried out the mining of the ports of that Central American country.

Last year's maneuvers served as a trial run for the attack last October on the small island of Grenada. On that occasion several battalions of Rangers from the 22d Amphibian Unit and three battalions of the 82d Airborne Division, all from the United States, participated.

COSTA RICAN MINISTER ON PEACE, NONINTERVENTION

PA232102 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has said in San Jose that his ministry intends to prevent Costa Rica from intervening in the Central American conflicts and intends to maintain peace in the country.

In a statement to LA NACION, the foreign minister said that various conservative sectors are exerting pressure for Costa Rica to harass the Sandinist government, which would betray the historic principles of the Costa Rican foreign policy. The chief of Costa Rican diplomacy noted that his office will maintain a position favorable to peace and in support of the Contadora Group. We are not afraid to defend our sovereignty with arms if it should be necessary, he pointed out; however, to engage in acts of provocation would be wrong, and we are not going to adopt such an attitude, Gutierrez concluded.

COSTA RICAN OFFICIALS ACCUSED OF HELPING CONTRAS

FL231612 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Costa Rican officials are collaborating with groups in the counterrevolutionary Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE]. The anti-Sandinist group commanded by the traitor Eden Pastora has ample facility to move about in Costa Rica and attack Nicaragua.

A report by the coordinator for the Defense of Democratic Liberties of Costa Rica [coordinadora para la Defensa de las Libertades Democraticas de Costa Rica] mentions names of ARDE collaborators. Among the Costa Rican individuals involved with the counterrevolution are the minister and the vice minister of government. The chief and former chief of the Office of National Security and other security officials are also collaborating with the anti-Sandinists.

The coordinator reports that the ARDE counterrevolutionaries have five camps, a base of operations, and warehouses for weapons. These centers are located in the Costa Rican Departments of Guanacaste and Alajuela, Los Chiles, and at the mouth of the San Carlos River.

The Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border region has become a no-man's land because Costa Rica has withdrawn the Rural Civil Guard. President Luis Monge made the decision to withdraw those security forces after meeting with General Paul Gorman. Gorman is chief of the Southern Command of the U.S. Army based in Panama.

SALVADORAN PARTY PLATFORMS ANALYZED, CONTRASTED

PA231533 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Marked anticommunism and a desire to crush the FMLN forces and quench the people's aspirations for liberty are common traits of El Salvador's two most important political parties.

However, these two groups -- the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA -- speak of different procedures for achieving their goals.

The second elections round in El Salvador is scheduled for 6 May. These elections present two alternatives: the traditional oligarchy-oriented program, which is promoted by ARENA; and a reformist plan, which has more tactical U.S. support. The reformist plan is promoted by the PDC.

The ultrarightists want to consolidate the system that currently exists in El Salvador without making any changes at all, even if in so doing they have to put in effect the most radical methods of dirty wars: murder, kidnapping, and torture.

The PDC wants to stabilize the capitalist system that reigns in El Salvador with all its exploitation and injustice, but based on a series of alleged social and economic reforms.

The Salvadoran people, the majority of whom are illiterate and jobless, live in unhealthy conditions. The industrial production index is at a very low level and prices for basic foodstuffs have increased fivefold since 1974.

What can the Salvadoran people expect from juggled elections and from candidates who want nothing but the perpetuation of exploitation and misery?

The PDC platform wants to appear more acceptable, to create for itself an improved international image that would allow it to appear with some equilibrium in the world context and at the same time guarantee U.S. plans for that country as well as for the rest of the Central American region.

This does not at all mean that there are no discrepancies between the PDC and the U.S. Government. The differences, which of course are not fundamental, result from the Yankee government insistence on analyzing the Salvadoran problem as a simple consequence of the East-West confrontation. But the U.S. Government, the ultrarightists, and the Salvadoran Christian Democrats have the same objective: to perpetuate the capitalist regime and the imperialist domination in Central America.

Beyond any tactical consideration and political point of view, the two most powerful political parties of El Salvador operate and conduct their activities within the framework of the electoral scheme imposed by the United States.

The Salvadoran elections, the first round of which was a mockery of the most fundamental principles of democracy and a slap in the face to the people of the world, are being directed, organized, and supervised by the U.S. Government, which will benefit the most from this farce.

Salvadoran ultrarightists and Christian Democrats are linked by the objective of creating a common front against the liberation movement and of eliminating the struggle of all the people, who will nevertheless have the last word.

One of the decisive factors of the dynamic Central American historical process is occurring in El Salvador, where the people are struggling daily in heroic resistance to imperialism, rising above the dirty electoral games.

EL SALVADOR'S UNGO ON FRENCH SOLIDARITY

PA202033 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, president of the Salvadoran FDR, has stressed in Paris the interest of France and its government in contributing to a peaceful resolution of the Salvadoran conflict. He also stressed that country's positive role in the search for peace in Central America.

In a conversation with journalists after a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, Ungo asserted that U.S. planes not only make reconnaissance flights over El Salvador but also participate directly in military operations. He said that last Monday several U.S. planes participated in a mass reprisal action against the guerrillas in San Vicente Department, causing the death of dozens of people in violation of the Geneva Convention.

Although he did not disclose any details of his talks with Mitterrand, Ungo stressed the solidarity demonstrated by the French Government and those of other Western Europe an countries with FDR positions.

Notes U.S. Role in El Salvador

PA220256 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] FDR President Guillermo Ungo has charged in Paris that direct military involvement by the United States in El Salvador is a fact, and that each day this involvement is more marked and open.

In concluding a private visit to the French capital, Guillermo Ungo told the press that U.S. airplanes and helicopters flown by U.S. pilots fly over Salvadoran territory every day to carry out military intelligence operations in support of the Salvadoran regime's army. The Salvadoran revolutionary leader underscored that despite its efforts the United States has not been able to successfully implement its military strategy in El Salvador, and it has not been able to change the trend of events that favors the people's movement.

Ungo spoke of the growing U.S. military aid to the Salvadoran regime and added that by next year Washington will need eight times more funds than in 1980. He stated that what happened in Vietnam is being repeated in El Salvador, and that the results being achieved by the United States are inadequate to defeat the popular movement or to change the course of the war.

Ungo also spoke of the electoral farce being held in El Salvador, which has been organized by the United States. Regarding this he said that nothing will change in his country with those elections.

VIOLENCE, DEATH THREATS REPORTED IN EL SALVADOR

PA210215 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The rebel station Radio Farabundo Marti has charged that Salvadoran Army soldiers machine gunned and later burned with acid more than 20 members of a family living near Guazapa Volcano. It added that in El Roble, soldiers killed 22 peasants and that the bodies of 22 other people have been found in various locations in the Guazapa region. The bodies were so mutilated that identification has been impossible.

(John Kelly), a U.S. adviser who worked for the Salvadoran Central Electoral Council [CCE], left El Salvador after receiving death threats from a paramilitary group linked to the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA. Roberto Meza, a CCE member, also left the country for the same reason. Two deputies of the legislative assembly who were forced to vote for amendments proposed by ARENA to eliminate the electoral registry left the country because they were afraid of greater reprisals.

Other reports indicate that FMLN columns yesterday successfully attacked Army garrisons in seven towns in Morazan and San Miguel Departments.

SALVADORAN REBELS CLASH WITH ARMY UNITS

PA221829 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] FMLN forces of El Salvador have killed four and wounded eight soldiers of the government's Manuel Jose Arce Battalion in fierce combat in the northern Morazan Department. According to Radio Venceremos, the FMLN radio station, the battalion was trained by U.S. military advisers in antiguerrilla and counterinsurgency tactics. The fighting took place at Los Naranjos, near (Chicapa) Hill, where the Army has a strategic communications center.

Meanwhile, in (Ciudad Morrica), San Miguel Department, military forces clashed with rebels, according to a report from the Press Committee of the Armed Forces. The report did not offer further details of these actions.

SALVADORAN PLANE MISTAKENLY HITS ARMY POSITIONS

FL231702 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] A Salvadoran Air Force reconaissance plane has accidentally bombed Army positions in the southeastern Department of San Vicente, killing a soldier and wounding 12 other troops. The rebel station Radio Veneceremos reported that the incident took place in an area where troops of the Atonal Battalion -- trained by the United States in counterinsurgency techniques -- were operating. Radio Veneceremos said that the mistake reflects lack of control, disorder, and inability in the ranks of the Salvadoran Army.

GUATEMALAN FAR LEADER ON U.S. INTERVENTION

PA220403 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Pablo Monsanto, commander in chief of the Guatemalan Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, has said that this revolutionary organization supports the efforts being made by the [Contadora] Group because it is the Latin American alternative to Washington's warmongering stance in Central America. Monsanto warned that a U.S. military intervention in Central America would reverse the domocratic trend in Latin America and would place Mexico in a position where it would risk having U.S. troops on both its borders. The Guatemalan guerrilla leader charged that Nicaragua and El Salvador are faced with the danger of a direct aggression by the United States.

Monsanto added that Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova allowed the occupation of his country, which has been turned into a U.S. base to attack other countries of the region.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, has released a communique in Mexico City stating that the mining of Nicaraguan ports shows the United States' unwillingness to find a negotiated settlement and its decision to internationalize the Central American crisis and regionalize the war in line with its plans for invasion.

GUATEMALA'S URNG SCORES U.S. MINING OF PORTS

PA211320 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has denounced the mining of Nicaraguan ports as evidence of the U.S. Government's unwillingness to negotiate peace. In a communique released in Mexico City, the URNG said that U.S. President Reagan, with such actions, is trying to internationalize the Central American crisis and regionalize the conflict to favor his invasion plans.

The communique added that Washington is only demagogically backing the Contadora Group peace efforts; that in fact it supports irresponsible acts aimed at worsening the armed conflict in the area.

WIDF PROTESTS INCREASED REPRESSION IN GUATEMALA

PA201952 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The Women's International Domocratic Federation [WIDF] today denounced the alarming increase of repression and murders in Guatemala and demanded that that military regime explain the whereabouts of the 35,000 missing persons in that country.

In a document published in Berlin, seat of that international organization, the WIDF demanded respect for the physical integrity of over 400 citizens being tried by the Guatemalan special courts and an end to torture, which is even practiced on minors.

HONDURAN ARCHIBISHOP CITED ON MISSING PERSONS

PA211728 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The archibishop of Tegucigalpa, Msgr Hector Enrique Santos, has demanded an official investigation into the disappearance of over 100 persons in Honduras and respect for human lives and rights.

At the same time, relatives and friends of 112 missing persons staged a march in that Central American capital to demand the safe return of these persons.

NEW YORK TIMES VIEWS CIA ROLE IN NICARAGUA

Agency Linked to ARDE Operations

FL231300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The Yankee intelligence agency, CIA, has been directing the military strategies of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary organization known as ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], which it threatened with a cutoff of all aid if it did not complete the objectives of the espionage agency. This was revealed by THE NEW YORK TIMES, which cited information from members of ARDE itself who were stationed in Costa Rica, from officials of the San Jose government, and from diplomats accredited to that city. The sources cited by the newspaper stated that in recent months the counter-revolutionary group has received tons of military equipment and large amounts of money from the CIA.

Agents in Rebel Groups

PA221849 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES has reported that the CIA, the U.S. Central Intelligency Agency, has placed its agents and specially trained mercenaries in key positions within the groups that are launched against Nicaragua. The paper pointed out that the CIA insisted that the blame for the mining of Nicaraguan ports should be assumed by two groups of mercenaries and, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, that espionage agency has supplied the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with tons of war materiel and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The information published in that paper explained that the Reagan administration does not limit itself to organizing diversionist actions against Nicaragua, but also directs them [counterrevolutionaries] toward the creation of a provisional anti-Sandinist government, for which it urges the counterrevolutionary groups to occupy any city or part of the Nicaraguan territory.

Requests Economic Sanctions

PA210218 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES has disclosed that the U.S. Government is considering the imposition of new economic sanctions against Nicaragua which include import bans and the cancellation of the Nicaraguan national airline's landing rights. The newspaper added that the new U.S. economic restrictions against Nicaragua affect Nicaraguan bananas.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that Washington is studying those sanctions at the request of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which, it stated, has assumed a decisive role in the political decisions against Nicaragua.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA ON 'UNDECLARED U.S. WAR'

PA222120 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], has warned about a series of U.S. maneuvers intended to lead U.S. troops directly to Salvadoran territory and eventually to Nicaragua. During a press conference held in Sumubila, a Miskito settlement attacked on 17 April by counterrevolutionaries, Ortega stressed the seriousness of the situation in Central America and stated that Washington's undeclared war is currently directed toward destabilizing Nicaragua and covering up the failures of the White House.

Regarding the mining of the Nicaraguan ports, the Sandinist leader said that negotiations are being held regarding the sweeping of the bays and access channels, and that they expect to have the necessary equipment for the sweeping shortly.

Commander Ortega warned that Nicaragua will continue strengthening its military defense to prevent this type of aggression from causing victims and material damage and added that as long as the U.S. Government maintains its aggressive policy the struggle will be hard and long.

NICARAGUAN REBEL LEADER HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

PA191917 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] A large crowd interrupted the news conference that Alfonso Robelo, one of the leaders of the self-styled anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, was holding at the Palace of Congresses in Paris. Many people entered the room carrying placards which read: ARDE Equals CIA; Robelo, an Assassin; and Robelo, Where Does the Money Come From? The latter alluded to the funds supplied by the United States for counterrevolutionary attacks on Nicaragua. French policemen detained several of the demonstrators.

Robelo attended the news conference accompanied by alleged Cuban poet Armando Valladares, who was his translator. The anti-Sandinist leader said that he had traveled to Paris to meet with various political figures. He admitted that although at this point ARDE is not receiving direct aid from the United States, it will obtain it soon through third parties. He also admitted that the ARDE forces were expelled from San Juan del Norte by the Sandinist People's Army.

NICARAGUAN LABOR MINISTER VISITS ADDIS ABABA

PA201941 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] We knew that the African nations felt a solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's struggle against foreign aggression, but the support received here exceeds all expectations, Nicaraguan Labor Minister Benedicto Meneses has said in Addis Ababa. The Nicaraguan official is attending the 7th session of the Working Committee of the OAU underway in the Ethiopian capital. Meneses said later that his visit to Addis Ababa has been most important because it helped strengthen relations between Ethiopia and Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan visitor urged the OAU delegates to attend the 3d conference of labor ministers of the Nonaligned Movement nations to be held in Managua 10-12 May.

BRAZILIAN NEWSMEN PROTEST RADIO, TV CENSORSHIP

PA212019 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The National Federation of Journalists of Brazil [Federacion Nacional de Periodistas del Brazil] has strongly protested government-imposed censorship on radio and television. The federation described the measure as the most serious restriction of freedom of the press in Brazil since 1975 and stressed that the government is resorting to censorship throughout the country to keep the truth from the people.

The committee for direct elections, which groups several political parties and other opposition organizations in Sao Paulo, has called for a mass rally on 25 April to protest the imposition of the state of emergency in Brasilia and other measures decreed by the executive branch.

By virtue of the emergency measures, police have arrested two journalists and six members of the movement for nonviolence, including a priest, inside the Brasilia cathedral. According to the Brazilian bar association, these eight prisoners are being held incommunicado in police stations and the authorities have denied them legal counsel.

EIGHT ARRESTED AT CATHEDRAL RELEASED IN BRAZIL

PA221953 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] The Brazilian Government has released eight persons who were arrested last Friday in the Brasilia cathedraf after six of them went on a hunger strike demanding a return to the universal vote system in the presidential elections. The other two arrested were reporters of the daily ULTIMA HORA, and according to Brazilian military authorities, they were jailed through the special powers granted by the Constitution within the emergency measures established in Brazil since last Wednesday.

The governor of Rio de Janeiro, Leonel Brizola, recommended the transfer of the parliamentary debate on direct elections in 1985 to another Brazilian city, free of the emergency measures in effect.

Access routes to Brasilia are blocked by barbed wire as Army units search vehicles and check personal identification documents. In addition, there is severe censorship, and the police have authority to carry out house raids, suspend public meetings, and other activities.

In support of direct elections, a multiparty committee has called a general strike for next Tuesday, the eve of the meeting of the Brazilian Congress.

CHILEAN WORKERS COMMAND URGES MAY DAY PROTEST

PA200450 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The National Workers Command has urged the Chilean working masses to participate in a large public demonstration on 1 May. The command has asserted that the Chilean situation is grave and has said that the main problems are unemployment, lack of public rights, torture, arrest of political opponents, forced exile, and the high external debt.

Chilean police forces repressed a protest march in Santiago against the military court, which will court-martial three persons for whom the district attorney has requested the death penalty.

Eight organizations which are allies of Augusto Pinochet's regime have proposed a program to step up the reestablishment of democracy in Chile without eliminating the institutionalization imposed by the dictatorship. The amendment proposed by these groups seeks only to elect a parliament in 1986 and the repeal of some repressive decrees; however, it does not seek to end Augusto Pinochet's regime.

CHILEAN RIGHTS GROUP RAIDED; PROTESTS PLANNED

PA201930 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Eight persons have been arrested in Santiago, Chile, in a raid on the offices of the Defense Committee of the People's Rights [Comite de Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo -- CODEPU], while three others have been detained for participating in public demonstrations against the courts-martial. A communique of CODEPU, headed by Xaviera Letelier, said that its offices had been raided by the police of the Chilean fascist regime who arrested eight of its members, including Manuela Leiva, niece of slain former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

Meanwhile, a large crowd gathered before the Santiago cathedral to protest the scheduled courts-martial of three persons charged with the death of the city's intendent, Carlos Urzua. Labor leaders and members of the Chilean National Workers Command, headed by Rodolfo Seguel, agreed to hold a massive public rally on 1 May at the O'Higgins Plaza in Santiago. Meanwhile, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, Rafael Retamal, has said he will not resign from his post despite having been criticized for defending the court's autonomy.

CHILEAN SOCIALISTS HELD ON SABOTAGE CHARGES

PA211359 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Four members of a Chilean Socialist Party [PS] cell have been arrested in Santiago by agents of the National Information Center [CNI], the political police of the government of Augusto Pinochet. The four persons, whose identities have not been revealed, are accused of acts of sabotage against high voltage towers.

Another report indicated that youth Jose Dagoberto Uribe was confined in a desolate area in the northern part of Chile for participating last March in protest demonstrations.

The opposition daily FORTIN MAPOCHO has been subjected to censorship shortly after a court of appeals annulled a decision of the Ministry of the Interior banning its circulation.

The director of the magazine ANALISIS, Juan Pable Cardenas, was arrested 10 days ago and has been charged by the Chilean authorities with inciting to subversion through an editorial published in that magazine urging a prompt return to a democratic system of government.

COLOMBIAN COMMUNISTS ON NICARAGUAN SOLIDARITY

PA200441 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The Communist Party of Colombia has issued a call to increase solidarity with the Nicaraguan people against the armed raids by counterrevolutionary bands that are trained and financed by the CIA. The party pointed out that support to the Sandinist revolution has become the number one priority of international tasks.

PERU ARRANGES PARTIAL PAYMENT OF DEBT TO USSR

PA211512 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Peru will this year pay part of its debt to the USSR with traditional and nontraditional products amounting to $107.6 million. The announcement was made at a news conference by the president of the Association of Exporters of Peru, Gonzalo Garland, who offered details about the third meeting of the Peruvian-Soviet intergovernmental commission for economic, commercial, scientific-technological, and fishery cooperation held in Lima 16-18 April.

The Soviets are interested in obtaining in 1984 concentrates of zinc, lead, and bismuth, noncorrosive metal laminations, cotton, coffee, cocoa, and fish preserves, among other products.

Garland said that Peru's total debt to the USSR amounts to $250 million.

PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED ON TWO NEW FRONTS

PA201956 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] Two new fronts for criticizing the Peruvian Government were opened by officialism itself when it (?approved) in the Senate a bill against the press and when a legislator criticized Cardinal (Juan Landazuri) for denouncing the government's corruption and immorality in a recent pastoral letter.

Parliamentarian Francisco Belaunde Terry, brother of the Peruvian president, said that the cardinal's charges of immorality against Fernando Belaunde Terry's previous administration had helped the nationalist military movement led by General Juan Velasco Alvarado. (Landazuri) rejected the deputy's charges, explaining that neither the chief of state, the two presidents of the chambers of Congress, nor any of the ministers had expressed to him their solidarity in the face of the attacks on his person.

Meanwhile, opposition parliamentarians and the various journalists' organizations expressed their rejection of a bill affecting press freedom, which was approved by the official majority in the Peruvian Senate. The bill establishes 5 years' imprisonment for anyone using the social communications media to disseminate false information or persuade the people to withdraw their savings from various banks and financial enterprises.

SOCIALISTS IN PERU EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH C.A.

PA220325 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Representatives of the socialist parties of eight South American countries have expressed in Lima their solidarity with the peoples of Central America, especially those of Nicaragua and El Salvador, in the face of U.S. aggression. This was expressed by the representatives of the socialist parties of Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, and Uruguay.

600 MISSING IN PERU'S AYACUCHO DEPARTMENT

PA230345 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] According to the Ayacucho attorney general, he has received some 600 missing person reports. Recently the bodies of 40 peasants were found in an Ayacucho neighborhood. Half of the bodies have been identified and the others are in the process of being identified. Peruvian parliamentary officials have reported that at least 1,500 people have disappeared in recent years. Because of the state of emergency declared in Ayacucho, civic organizations have demanded a more detailed investigation of these charges.

RIOTERS PROTEST PRICE RISES, IMF NEGOTIATIONS

FL232300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2004 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, April 23 (CANA-REUTER) -- Rioters set fire to cars and looted shops in the Dominican Republic capital today in violent demonstrations against recent food price rises.

Troops were called in to reinforce police and two people were reported to have received bullet wounds. Over 300 were arrested. State radio said a large area in the northern area of Santo Domingo was virtually out of control, rioters having practically sealed off the area with barriers of blazing tyres.

Elsewhere, mobs had pelted government vehicles with stones, forced passengers off a bus before setting fire to it and looted a bank, police reported.

Meanwhile, left-wing opposition parties announced they would call for more stoppages and demonstrations.

The riots coincided with a visit here by a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with which the Dominican Republic is negotiating a 450 million dollar loan.

3 Dead, 20 Injured

PA232213 Paris AFP in Spanish 2153 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 23 Apr (AFP) -- Three persons killed, 20 injured, and more than 50 arrested; a supermarket looted; hundreds of burned tires in the streets; and transportation and businesses paralyzed was the aftermath this afternoon of popular protests that broke out today in the Dominican capital, according to journalists. The protests were sparked by the general price increase of staple products and the government negotiations with the IMF.

Incidents in which demonstrators are clashing with law enforcement officers are continuing in the districts surrounding the capital, the reports added.

Police Regain Control

PA240026 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2354 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 23 Apr (EFE) -- At least 1 person has been killed and 50 injured in today's disturbances in Santo Domingo during a demonstration against the increase in the cost of living and the IMF.

Colonel Jose Rijo, director of Public Relations of the National Police, told EFE tonight that Ana Diaz, a 70-year-old lady, died from asphyxiation caused by the gases of tires burned by the demonstrators. Reports not confirmed by the police indicated that three persons were killed in the disturbances.

According to Rijo, the National Police were in complete control of the situation late this evening after the incidents in the northern and eastern neighborhoods of this capital.

The police spokesman also reported that 20 policemen were injured by stones thrown by the demonstrators, and a sergeant's regulation weapon was stolen. However, Rijo did not give any details on the number of civilians injured, although hospitals reported that 50 persons had been admitted with injuries, 7 of them caused by firearms.

BARBADOS

ADAMS WANTS NEW INVESTMENT TO LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT

FL192238 Bridgetown CANA in English 1727 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 19 (CANA) -- The Barbados Government is banking on new investment, stimulated by increased savings, to hold down unemployment, estimated at 15.8 per cent at the end of last year. "The best means of dealing with unemployment in my view is still to reduce it by new investments," Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Tom Adams told Parliament in his 1984 budget. While severance and unemployment pay are vital to the social well being of Barbados, they are no substitute for new jobs, Adams said.

"I therefore consider that the government's priorities now that the line has been held on the balance of payments for three years must be to increase savings, government as well as private, and to generate revenue for this purpose," the prime minister added.

To help stimulate savings he announced plans for a scheme to provide tax relief "on genuine additions to personal savings of up to at least 5,000 dollars a year." A committee is to be set up comprising government and representatives of "relevant professional organisations" to make recommendations on ways and means of implementing the scheme.

In the meantime, the prime minister announced an increase in the amount of exemption of new share purchases in public companies from 2,000 dollars to 10,000 dollars per annum, and a doubling to 50,000 dollars of the exempted income earned from investment in approved national development housing or savings bonds. Additionally he said legislation would be forthcoming to exempt from taxation "cash obtained by an individual from funds repatriated from overseas pension schemes, where such cash is invested in an approved bond for a period of at least five years.

BWU TURNS DOWN GOVERNMENT PAY PROPOSAL

FL231940 Bridgetown CANA in English 2244 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 22 (CANA) -- The Barbados Workers Union -- BWU -- the island's biggest -- said today it had turned down a government pay proposal because it did not offer lower paid public workers a percentage increase bigger than the one for better paid employees.

The government offered the BWU, which has more than 40,000 members, and other unions representing public sector workers a 20 per cent pay increase, with a 15 per cent hike in the first year, under a proposed two-year contract.

The BWU and some other unions rejected the offer when negotiations started last week. Only the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), the biggest public service union, has so far accepted the offer. Explaining the reasons behind the rejection, BWU General Secretary Frank Walcott said: "Our submission was based on the fact that the range of salaries within the public service is so wide and varied and therefore creates great disparity in incomes within the service.

"To be agreeable to this gross inequality in salary negotiations would be a disgrace to our social conscience." Walcott added: "We were aware that it would create the greatest source of industrial satisfaction among the lower ranks of the public service that one could encounter in any sector of our economy."

The veteran union leader said the lower sections of the public service worked for comparatively small wages that could be described in terms of living conditions in Barbados, as "consumption incomes."

In the absence of "a modern and progressive system of taxation," these people were also called on to pay heavy taxes "to buttress some fanciful projects that are meaningless in our present economic situation," Walcott claimed.

CANA EXPECTS TO OPEN RADIO FACILITY IN JUNE

FL122030 Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 8 Apr 84 p 2

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday (CANA) -- The CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA), the Barbados-based regional wire service, said yesterday it expected to inaugurate its proposed radio facility by mid-year with a view to improving the company's economic viability. The outgoing chairman, Ken Gordon, opening the annual general meeting of the eight-year-old agency in Kingston said too that plans were underway to computerise editorial functioning. "It is now planned that the (radio) service will be inaugurated in June to coincide with our move into new premises, where a special studio has been constructed," Gordon said.

CANA recently purchased its own headquarters building in Barbados and Gordon said that the computerisation would also coincide with the move to the new premises.

BRIEFS

SUGAR PRODUCTION -- Bridgetown, Barbados, April 13 (CANA) -- Barbados has so far produced more than 75 per cent of its projected sugar output for this year, according to latest industry statistics. The figures put sugar production up to April 8 at 77,455 tonnes. 1984 output is forecast at 100,000 tonnes. The industry said the sugar was produced from 667,885 tonnes of cane, representing a ratio of 8.62 tonnes of cane to a tonne of sugar. Sugar is Barbados' largest single export earning in the agricultural sector. Last year it earned Barbados 37.5 million dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.). Record earnings of 109 million dollars were recorded in 1980. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1840 GMT 13 Apr 84 FL]

GRENADA

BISHOP'S WIDOW PREDICTS COMING REVOLUTION

FL231744 Bridgetown CANA in English 1558 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Toronto, April 23 (CANA) -- The widow of former Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has predicted here that another revolution will take place in the Spice Island.

Angela Bishop also said the spirit of her late husband was very much alive -- "It will never die."

She told a gathering of Grenadians resident here she found the situation to be relatively quiet during her recent visit to Grenada. However, she added, "I don't think it will be long before that quietness is interrupted."

Mrs Bishop said Grenada was currently like a morgue. "People seem to have no purpose for living. It will not bee too long before there would be another bloody eruption."

Maurice Bishop was prime minister of Grenada for four and half years until he was killed last October 19 in a bloody military coup by a radical faction of his New Jewel Movement party. Mrs Bishop was separated from her husband at the time of his death.

The military government was removed from power by a U.S.-led invasion on October 25.

Mrs. Bishop said the Bishop family in Grenada was still making efforts to gain possession of the late prime minister's remains, so that he can be given a decent burial.

She has been made to understand that the interim government recently requested Maurice Bishop's medical records from Barbados, where he had been treated in recent years.

Mrs Bishop, who lives in Brampton, Ontario, just west of Toronto, said her visit to Grenada, accompanied by her daughter, Nadia, was of a personal nature.

During her stay she was able to see Hudson Austin, the former Army commander and one of the key figures presently awaiting trial in connection with Bishop's murder.

She said she wanted to look into Austin's eyes and try to find out something about what really happened to Maurice or where his body can be found.

Mrs. Bishop said she received no help, but she did not see any of the other detainees.

"I did not want to see the others," she told the gathering. Regarding Bernard Coard, Bishop's former deputy, and his wife, Phyllis, who are also accused of murder, Mrs Bishop said: "From day one I knew what the Coards were like. I tried to warn Maurice, but he didn't listen."

FORMER OFFICIAL ON INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT

FL192044 Bridgetown CANA in English 1810 GMT 19 Apr 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 19 (CANA) -- Unemployment in Grenada has increased by more than 300 per cent since last October's U.S.-led, Caribbean-supported invasion of the island, according to the country's former industrialisation minister, Kenrick Radix. Both economic and social conditions in the island had worsened since the political upheavals, Radix told newsmen.

The ex-minister arrived here to attend a recently concluded Latin American and Caribbean peace conference on behalf of a foundation named after slain Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Bishop and three other former government ministers were among those gunned down by the Army when it staged a coup last October 19. The junta replacing Bishop's Peoples Revolutionary Government (PRG) was quickly unseated by invading forces.

"The social and economic situation in my country has worsened since the infamous United States-led invasion last October," Radix said. "In fact, since the invasion unemployment has more than trebled, and the figure is now about 40 per cent, compared to 12.4 per cent during the days of the Maurice Bishop government," he continued.

The former cabinet minister supported the view that the Caribbean should be regarded as a zone of peace, which was endorsed by delegates at the conference. "Fact is very different from the ideal, and the region is now a hotbed of tension caused by the United States military aggression," Radix said. "The United States-led military invasion of Grenada and the pressures exerted in Nicaragua and El Salvador are clear examples of U.S. imperialist intervention in the region."

The conference condemned the invasion and called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces in Grenada.

Radix said that free and fair elections could not be held under the guns of occupation forces. "Such elections would be held against a background of the repercussions of the invasion and the need of the people to address their sovereignty and independence," he said. "The people of Grenada would also want to continue the social and economic programmes which would once more satisfy their desire for food and jobs," he added.

The interim government that has been running Grenada since November says elections will be held before year-end. Radix declined to comment on whether or not he would take part in the poll.

JAMAICA

MANLEY ISSUES WARNING AT DEMONSTRATION

WA231911 Rome IPS in English 18 Apr 84

[Text] Kingston, April 18 (IPS) -- Hundreds of supporters of Jamaica's opposition People's National Party (PNP) staged a protest demonstration in downtown Kingston today, demanding new general elections and government action to cut inflation.

The PNP leader, former Prime Minister Michael Manley, said the protest, culminating a series of smaller marches held throughout the island since last week, was "a taste of things to come."

When the new session of Parliament opens next month, he said, "Jamaica is going to echo the sound of the marching feet of the people."

The PNP is demanding that new general elections be called by June, the unofficial time-table for completion of an updated voters' list.

An opposition boycott of snap polls held last December resulted in Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) obtaining all 60 parliamentary seats.

The PNP said that by holding the elections one year ahead of schedule, the government violated a pledge that no elections would take place until a new electoral system, including an updated register of voters, was in place.

"It is time Seaga humbles himself before the people," Manley told the large gathering of party supporters.

While urging that the people exercise patience, the PNP president declared that if elections were not called at the end of June when the new voters list should be ready, "I will not be willing to wait any longer."

Manley said today's demonstration was "a taste of what is to take place at the end of June."

Speeches at the demonstration reiterated opposition calls for the government to halt the massive rise in the cost of living.

Manley said the government created the present economic crisis by "bringing in luxury consumer goods" after assuming office three years ago. Similar demonstrations were held last week in the north coast resort towns of Ocho Rios, Montego Bay, and St Ann's Bay, and in Mandeville in central Jamaica. Placards called for a reduction of taxes and an increase in the minimum wage, and urged the holding of new elections until a new voters' list is ready.

The government-dominated Parliament recently approved an official decree suspending local elections -- scheduled for this summer -- for at least one year.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

AMBASSADOR TO UN GENEVA OFFICE PRESENTS LETTER

FL192158 Bridgetown CANA in English 1833 GMT 19 Apr 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 19 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago's newly appointed ambassador to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Lyle Williams, has presented his letters of accreditation to Erik Suy, director general of the office, according to a statement from the Port of Spain-based United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean area.

The 54-year-old Williams is a graduate of the United Nations programme for the training of diplomats. He began his career as the commercial assistant in Trinidad and Tobago's Embassy in Montreal, Candada. Williams served in diplomatic positions in Jamaica, Venezuela, and in Trinidad and Tobago before being appointed high commissioner in Lagos, Nigeria from 1977 to 1983.

CHILE

SOCIALIST PARTY CELL RAIDED; 2 CNI AGENTS HURT

PY231750 Paris AFP in Spanish 0241 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 22 Apr -- Last night authorities confirmed that a member of a Socialist Party cell was arrested in Santiago during a house search in which a bomb explosion injured two government agents. According to the official report, the operation was carried out by agents of the National Intelligence Center [CNI] who arrested Socialist militant Luis Guzman Robinson. During the house search in Villa de la Universidad Catolica, two agents were injured by a bomb that went off as they unearthed a small suitcase in which the bomb was buried in the yard of a house.

Another four members of the Twenty Fourth Congress Socialist organization were arrested last Thursday in a similar police operation in which firearms and explosive manufacturing elements were found.

MEXICO

INDIAN PRESIDENT SINGH ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

FL232348 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 23 April (NOTIMEX) -- Indian President Zail Singh arrived today at 1145 at the capital's international airport accompanied by his daughter Gurdee Kaur. Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor welcomed them on arrival. They then went to the National Palace where, after the playing of the national anthems of the two nations, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid said the country is honored with the visit of the president of a nation whose foreign policy, like Mexico's, supports peace efforts, solidarity, detente, and international cooperation.

Accompanied by his wife Paloma Cordero de la Madrid, the president of Mexico added that it is a profound distinction that the 4-day state visit by President Singh to the American continent has begun in Mexico. He said he is certain that during the talks they will hold the effect, plurality, and closeness of the understanding characterizing the relations between the two countries will be deepened.

After conveying his government's greetings and good wishes to the Mexican people, the Indian president said that despite the distance, India and Mexico are united by cultural inheritance, aspirations for social, economic, scientific, and technological progress, as well as efforts for attaining harmony free of poverty and fear of conflicts. Likewise, he stressed his wishes for consolidating, expanding, and diversifying bilateral relations to give them a new dimension and vigor.

Finally, the members of the Indian and Mexican delegations were introduced. Among other officials present at the ceremony for Mexico were the presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, Miguel Gonzalez Avelar and Humberto Lugo Gil, respectively.

PERU

SHINING PATH KILLS MAYOR, VICE GOVERNOR

PY231936 Paris AFP in Spanish 0233 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Ayacucho, 22 Apr (AFP) -- A group of Shining Path terrorists has killed the mayor and the vice governor of Guamanguilla District, Huanta Province, 28 km north of Ayacucho. Taking advantage of the Sunday holiday, the guerrillas entered the district at 1100 (1600 GMT) today and killed Mayor Delgado Delgadillo and the vice governor. The terrorists fled in a truck.

URUGUAY

REGIME REITERATES POLITICAL, PRESS RESTRICTIONS

PY232223 Paris AFP in Spanish 1322 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Montevideo, 23 Apr (AFP) -- In view of recent violations of current regulations, the Interior Ministry reminded all that restrictions on political and journalistic activities have not been lifted and urged all parties and citizens ro refrain from violating these regulations.

The official communique emphasized that among these restrictions is Institutional Act No 4 issued on 1 September 1976 which banned all those included on electoral tickets between 1966 and 1971 from carrying out political activities. This situation applies to a great many persons, especially those of the left, including Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, leader of the Blanco Party in exile. The Interior Ministry also noted that Institutional Act No 14 is in effect. This act empowers the government to ban from political activities those who violate the law on political parties and a decree issued on 2 August 1983 which suspended public political activities and levied restrictions on news media reports of these activities.

The communique concluded by stating that the fact that all the violations have not been punished in keeping with the abovementioned regulations must be viewed as the government's contribution to facilitating the path toward the democratic institutionalization of the nation, a task in which the government is firmly engaged. The Armed Forces have promised that general elections will be held on 28 November as the first step toward redemocratization.

VENEZUELA

ALLEGED KILLER OF U.S. CITIZEN UNDER ARREST

PA240232 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] Whenever the courts request it, Colonel Tulio Enrique Altuve Briceno will be turned over to the civilian courts, Defense Minister General Humberto Alcalde Alvarez has said. The (?defense minister) was questioned regarding the homicide charges against Col Altuve Briceno, who has been accused of allegedly murdering U.S. citizen Timothy Kinci. The defense minister confirmed that Col Altuve Briceno is under arrest at the National Guard command. There will be no objection to turning him over when the civilian courts request it, Gen Alcalde Alvarez said.